

Message Text

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VIA TELEX: FROM USIS/USNATO DATED OCTOBER 15, 1975

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BRUSSELS, OCTOBER 15 -- A GROUP OF ELEVEN AMERICAN WOMEN PROMINENT IN PUBLIC LIFE HAS BEGUN A TWO-WEEK TOUR TO LEARN ABOUT HOW THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) FUNCTIONS AT ITS HEADQUARTERS

HERE AND IN THE FIELD.

THE GROUP IS HERE AT THE INVITATION OF THE FIFTEEN-NATION ALLIANCE WHICH PERIODICALLY PROVIDES SUCH TOURS FOR PERSONS FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES. ONE OF THE GROUP, RUTH CLUSEN, PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW OCTOBER 14 THAT IT WILL BE "A VALUABLE EXPERIENCE" WHICH MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WILL SHARE WITH OTHER AMERICAN WOMEN WHEN THEY RETURN HOME.

"WE ARE STUDYING THE PHILOSOPHY OF NATO AND THE U.S. INVOLVEMENT
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IN THE ALLIANCE AND GETTING A LOOK AT THE REAL WORLD," SHE SAID.

"NONE OF US ACCEPTS ANYTHING ON FACE VALUE OR BECAUSE WE ARE TOLD IT'S A QUESTION OF POLICY OR TRADITION OR COMMITMENT, WE ARE

ASKING TOUGH QUESTIONS.

"WE FIND A REAL CONCERN IN EUROPE REGARDING THE CONTINUANCE OF AMERICAN PRESENCE AND THE DEGREE OF IT.

"WE SHARE THIS CONCERN BECAUSE AMERICANS ARE BEGINNING TO QUESTION THE NECESSITY AND BURDEN OF THE ALLIANCE, THIRTY YEARS AFTER ITS CREATION."

THE FAMILIARIZATION TOUR OF THE AMERICAN WOMEN "OPINION LEADERS" BEGAN OCTOBER 13 WITH TWO DAYS OF BRIEFINGS AT NATO HEADQUARTERS HERE. IT WAS TO CONTINUE WITH VISITS TO SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED POWERS EUROPE (SHAPE) AT MONS, BELGIUM, AND TO ALLIED AND AMERICAN MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE NETHERLANDS AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. A HIGHLIGHT WILL BE ACCOMPANYING A BORDER PATROL BY THE U.S. 11TH CAVALRY DIVISION AT FULDA, NEAR THE CZECHOSLOVAK BOUNDARY WITH GERMANY.

THE GROUP WILL FORMULATE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO IMPROVE AMERICAN PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE OF THE ALLIANCE AND THE ROLE PLAYED IN IT BY U.S. FORCES.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP ARE MARJORIE BELL CHAMBERS, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN; MARTHA A. DARLING, RESEARCH SCIENTIST AT THE BATELLE SEATTLE RESEARCH CENTER, JOAN M. GOODIN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, BROTHERHOOD OF RAILWAY AND AIRLINE CLERKS (AFL-CIO); MAXINE R. HAYS, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS; JEANNE M. HOLM, RETIRED U.S. AIR FORCE MAJOR-GENERAL; ADA PENA, NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS; SARAH GODDARD POWER, ASSISTANT CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN; MRS. ALAN SCHANEL, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILLIARY; JOY ROSENHEIM SIMONSON, PRESIDENT OF THE INTERSTATE ASSOCIATION OF COMMISSIONS ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN; AND BARBARA STUHLER, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE MINNESOTA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL.

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THEY ARE ACCOMPANIED BY MARY LOCKE OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, WHO IS ACTING AS THEIR RAPPORTEUR, AND MERCEDES BOTTS, COORDINATOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR SECRETARIAT OF THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT.
TURNER

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